

Claims 1-20 are cancelled.

21. (newly added) A signal quality testing apparatus for an optical disk of the type that stores optically readable information in the form of a spiral or annular pattern defining a plurality of concentric tracks, comprising:

an optical read device;

a drive mechanism adapted to move the optical read device radially over a portion of the disk surface across at least some of said tracks; and

a processing device adapted to select portions of a time variant measurement signal received from said optical read device, said measurement signal being associated with passages of the moving optical read device across respective tracks, and wherein the processing device is adapted to measure a signal amplitude in said portions.

22. (newly added) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the signal amplitude being measured in said portions as to identify at least one signal pattern associated with said signal information in said tracks.

23. (newly added) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the processing device receives the measurement signal from an analog to digital converter operatively coupled between the optical read device and the processing device.

24. (newly added) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the processing device further comprises memory means for storing program instructions and/or measurement data.

25. (newly added) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the processing device comprises a controller in the form of a field-programmable gate array.

26. (newly added) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the processing device comprises a controller in the form of an application-specific integrated circuit.

27. (newly added) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the processing device comprises a controller in the form of a microprocessor.

28. (newly added) A method for testing signal quality of an optical disk of the type that stores optically readable information in the form of a spiral or annular pattern defining a plurality of concentric tracks, comprising the steps of:

scanning an optical read device radially over at least a portion of a surface of the optical disk across at least some of said tracks;

producing a time variant measurement signal associated with passages of the optical read device across respective tracks;

selecting at least one portion of the measurement signal comprising information related to a single track; and

measuring a signal amplitude in said portions.

29. (newly added) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of:

identifying from the measured signal amplitude in said portions at least one bit pattern associated with the information in said tracks.

30. (newly added) The method according to claim 28, wherein said portion of the measurement signal is compensated for effects related to the radial scanning.

31. (newly added) The method according to claim 30, wherein the compensation comprises the step of applying an inverse envelope signal to the measurement signal.

32. (newly added) The method according to claim 29, wherein the bit pattern is at least a first I_3 bit pattern.

33. (newly added) The method according to claim 29, wherein the bit pattern is at least a first I_{11} or I_{14} bit pattern.

34. (newly added) The method according to claim 29, wherein the bit pattern is at least a first I_{TOP} bit pattern.

35. (newly added) The method according to claim 28, wherein the speed by which the radial scanning is performed is lower than the track speed.

36. (newly added) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of:

calculating the ratio I_3/I_{TOP} and I_{11}/I_{TOP} .

37. (newly added) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of:

determining a level of symmetry of the I_3 and I_{11} bit pattern.

38. (newly added) A computer program product directly loadable into an internal memory associated with a processor, said processor being operatively coupled to an optical read device and a drive mechanism adapted to move the optical read device radially over a portion of the surface of a disk, said disk being of the type that stores optically readable information in the form of a spiral or annular pattern defining a plurality of concentric tracks, across at least some of said tracks as to produce a time variant measurement signal, comprising program code for selecting at least one portion of the time variant measurement signal when executed by said processor and comprising program code for measuring a signal amplitude in the portions when executed by the processor.

39. (newly added) The computer program product according to claim 29, embodied on a computer-readable medium.

40. (newly added) A computer having a memory and a processor, said processor being operatively coupled to an optical read device and a drive mechanism adapted to move the optical read device radially over a portion of the disk surface across at least some of said tracks as to produce a time variant measurement signal, the memory containing program code for selecting at least one portion of the time variant measurement signal when executed by said processor, and the memory containing program code for measuring a signal amplitude in said portions.